taking development requirements into account. The centrality of the UN in global economic issues, development and international cooperation was seen to be significant.

It was also agreed that the institutional framework of G-77 should be upgraded to implement the South Summit decisions.

Border Dispute between India-China

4158. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new-item titled "Time, patience needed to solve border dispute : China" published in the Times of India, on the 4th April 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that India accuses China of possessing some land in Jammu and Kashmir and on the other hand China accuses India of possessing some Chinese territory;

(c) if so, what is the factual position in this regard; and

(d) what concrete steps are being taken to arrive at a settlement so as to safeguard peace and tranquility on the both the sides ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As is well-known, China continues to be in illegal occupation of (approx.) 38,000 sq. kms in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-pakistan 'Boundary Agreemnent' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh.

The boundary question is being discussed in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question (JWG). The Twelfth Meeting of the JWG was held in New Delhi on April 28, 2000. Both sides reiterated their commitment to seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question by peaceful means through dialogue. The Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility, along the Line of Actual Control, in the India-China Border Areas (1993) and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field, along the Line of Actual

Control, in the India-China Border Areas (1996) provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas.

Assessment of the Impact of Clinton's Visit

4159. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any firm assessment of the impact of President Clinton's visit to India during March this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government suspect any adverse impact of the President's visit on India's relation with the super powers especially Russia and China; and

(d) if so, what steps do Government propose to take to put India's foreign relations on correct prospective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. President Clinton's visit to India marks an important step in the efforts of both countries to chart a new and purposeful direction in bilateral relations to realise the shared vision of establishing a broad-based, closer and qualitatively new relationship, based on equality and mutual respect. The visit has led to better mutual understanding on bilateral, regional and international issues and has laid the foundation for enhancement of mutually beneficial co-operation. As part of the vision of the new relationship outlined by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Clinton, the two sides have established an architecture of regular, wide-ranging institutional dialogue. Prime Minister and the US President will hold regular bilateral 'Summits'. They will also be regular dialogues on foreign policy and security matters at the ministerial and official levels. A strong institutional framework has also been created for dialogue on economic and commercial issues, counter-terrorism, energy and environment, science and technology.

(c) Strengthening of our ties with the United States is neither directed against any country nor is it at the expense of any of our other important relationships. Government would continue to nurture our ties with all friendly countries, including the Russian Federation and China. We will continue to pursue our independent foreign policy, guided solely by our national interests and global friendship.

(d) Does not arise.